

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An actuator assembly comprising:
an actuator block including at least one actuator arm extending therefrom;
a circuit assembly supported by the actuator block; and
a damping assembly interfaced between the actuator block and the circuit assembly, the damping assembly comprising a plurality of rigid damper plates.

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled).

4. (Currently amended) The actuator assembly of claim ~~3~~ 1 further comprising at least one adhesive layer interposed between the plurality of rigid damper plates.
5. (Original) The actuator assembly of claim 1 wherein the damping assembly includes at least one damper pad.
6. (Original) The actuator assembly of claim 5 wherein the damper pad is formed of a viscoelastic material.
7. (Currently amended) The actuator assembly of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein the plurality of rigid damper plates includes a first damper plate, a second damper plate and a third damper plate, and

wherein each of the first, second and third damper plates have a progressively larger dimension in a direction away from an interface surface of the actuator block.

8. (Previously presented) The actuator assembly of claim 1 wherein the damping assembly is positioned proximate to a circuit interface portion of the actuator block, wherein the circuit interface portion includes a window, and wherein the damping assembly includes at least one rigid damper plate proximate to the window.

9. (Previously presented) The actuator assembly of claim 1 wherein circuit interface portion includes a plurality of ribs forming a recess and the circuit assembly abuts the plurality of ribs and the damping assembly is seated in the recess between the circuit assembly and the actuator block.

10. (Currently amended) A servo writing apparatus comprising:

a spindle assembly;

a servo writing assembly including an actuator assembly including at least one head coupled thereto;

a circuit assembly supported by the actuator assembly; and

a damping assembly interposed between the actuator assembly and the circuit assembly,
the damping assembly comprising a plurality of rigid damper plates.

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) The servo writing apparatus of claim ~~11~~ 10 wherein the plurality of rigid damper plates are coupled via at least one adhesive layer.

13. (Currently amended) The servo writing apparatus of claim ~~11~~ 10 wherein the damping assembly further includes damper pads which abut an interface surface of the actuator assembly.

14. (Currently amended) The servo writing apparatus of claim ~~11~~ 10 wherein the plurality of rigid damper plates have a progressively larger thickness dimension in a direction away from an interface surface of the actuator assembly.

15. (Currently amended) The servo writing apparatus of claim ~~11~~ 10 wherein the plurality of rigid damping plates includes a first damping plate, a second damping plate and a third damping plate having different thickness dimensions.

16. (Currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:
aligning a circuit assembly relative to an interface surface on an actuator block;
interposing a damping assembly between the circuit assembly and the interface surface,
the damping assembly comprising a plurality of rigid damper plates; and
securing the circuit assembly relative to the interface surface of the actuator block having
the damping assembly between the circuit assembly and the actuator block.

Claims 17-19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~19~~ 16, wherein the damping assembly of the interposing step further comprises at least one viscoelastic layer disposed between said plurality of rigid damper plates.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the damping assembly of the interposing step comprises a first damper plate, a second damper plate and a third damper plate, and wherein each of the first, second and third damper plates have a progressively larger dimension in a direction away from an interface surface of the actuator assembly.